

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 138438  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:JD  
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY  
NEA:HHSAUNDERS  
S/AA:ALATHERTON,JR.  
NSC:WQUANDT  
S/S PTARNOFF

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O 011414Z JUN 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 138438

NODIS  
FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PEPR, IS, US

SUBJECT: REPLY TO MAY 22 BEGIN LETTER

1. PLEASE DELIVER ASAP FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT  
TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MAY 22 IN WHICH YOU  
EXPRESS YOUR CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT OUR SALE OF CERTAIN  
AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA.

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KNOWING HOW SERIOUSLY YOU VIEWED THIS MATTER, I MADE  
MY DECISION TO SEND THE PROPOSALS TO THE CONGRESS ONLY AFTER  
I WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT THIS TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT  
WOULD NOT THREATEN ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND WAS IMPORTANT TO  
THE BROAD NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE  
ASSURANCES IN SECRETARY BROWN'S LETTER OF MAY 9 TO THE  
CONGRESS WERE SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO HELP ALLAY THE

ANXIETIES AND MEET THE CONCERNS WHICH YOU EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER. I CAN ASSURE YOU, MR. PRIME MINISTER, THAT MY GOVERNMENT AND I PERSONALLY CONSIDER THESE ASSURANCES TO

BE BINDING COMMITMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA AND OF COURSE WE WILL FIRMLY STAND BY ALL AGREEMENTS WHICH WE REACH IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE.

THE ENTIRE THRUST OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE AREA THAT WOULD ASSURE ISRAEL'S LONG-TERM SECURITY. WHILE WORKING TOWARDS THE GOAL OF PEACE, SUCCESSIVE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE ENSURED THAT THE BALANCE OF MILITARY POWER IN THE AREA CLEARLY IS IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR. THIS HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY DEMONSTRATED IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR. MY ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED THAT THIS VERY FAVORABLE BALANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED.

I WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY YOUR ELOQUENT WORDS ABOUT THE DEEP, UNBREAKABLE BONDS WHICH UNITE OUR TWO GREAT COUNTRIES. I SHARE WITH YOU THE CONVICTION THAT IT IS PRECISELY THIS RELATIONSHIP WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE COMING WEEKS. END QUOTE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MILITARY SALES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** REPLY TO MAY 22 BEGIN LETTER  
**TAGS:** MASS, PEPR, PPDC, IS, US, EG, SA, (CARTER, JIMMY), (BEGIN, MENACHEM)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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